

# WISCONSIN FBLA e-BULLETIN

News for Wisconsin FBLA Members



## Newsletter

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### In this issue

[President's Farewell](#)

[SLC Wrap-Up](#)

[Wisconsin FBLA : It's Time to Break Barriers in Orlando](#)

[Finish the FBLA Year Strong...With Community Service!](#)

[Saving for College](#)

### President's Farewell

Article by Laura Schoenike, State President

September 18, 2007: Three years, six months, and 24 days ago is a day that will go down in history. Well, maybe not for all of you, but for me, it was a day that changed my life for the better. I was a petrified freshman sitting in an accounting class, not talking to anyone and doing my best to stare down at my book. My goal was to be invisible, and as you've probably figured out, I was pretty good at it. Much to my dismay, my teacher made this extremely difficult when she came up, tapped me on the shoulder, and said, "There's a meeting today. It's for a new group called FBLA, the Future Business Leaders of America. You should come...I think you might like it."



Thus begins the story of how our organization, the Future Business Leaders of America, can truly help members to Break Barriers. Just four short years ago, I was a completely different person than I am today. I was the quiet kid; the shy kid; the kid who didn't speak to anyone because she was too afraid; the kid who played flute, danced ballet, and volunteered at the local nursing home. I was never the kid who was a 'future leader.' But somehow, that's what I became. My FBLA experiences including: leadership roles, competitive events, working with advisers and business people, and so many other opportunities, have morphed me into who I am today. The same may also be true for you because that's what FBLA does. Our organization doesn't just teach students to read and count. FBLA teaches students to read into what really counts, their future.

Wisconsin FBLA, it's been an honor to serve as your president for the past year. Thanks to your outstanding efforts, we certainly have been able to Break Barriers. Keeping this in mind, never let anyone tell you that there is anything you can't accomplish. After all, there's not much of a difference between a stadium full of cheering fans and an angry crowd screaming abuse at you. They're both just making a lot of noise. How you take it is up to you. Convince yourself they're cheering for you and someday they will. Congratulations on yet another successful year, Wisconsin FBLA. I am proud of everything we have accomplished. I can safely say that with leaders such as yourself, the future of our organization, country, and world is in capable hands.

## SLC Wrap-Up

Article by Kayla Carey, Region V Vice President

Wisconsin FBLA members meet together in Appleton to network, compete, vote, and learn. Members were able to participate in tours and workshops focusing on improving themselves and, in turn, those around them. Throughout the State Leadership Conference, members competed to be on stage during the closing session as we learned who would represent Wisconsin this summer in Orlando, Florida, at the National Leadership Conference. Congratulations to all participating members. Of course we took away more than just awards during our conference. We were joined by Ryan Porter, a great speaker who taught us how to "make our own lunch" through his entertaining and relatable presentation and workshops.

We were reminded of how much we matter when it comes to helping the March of Dimes by raising over \$5,000 during the Miracle Minute. The Middle Level members also helped and got in on the fun by raising over \$400. We truly helped "Break Barriers" for premature baby research with these donations. Wisconsin FBLA was extremely active this year, and next year will be even better! Leading the way will be your newly elected State Leadership Team. Voting delegates meet together to decide who would join the already elected Regional Vice Presidents. There are three returning state officers eager to share their experiences with the other officers. Wisconsin had three members that were willing to push themselves and run for national office positions. Unfortunately, each state may only support one candidate for National Office, so delegates voted and decided that Drew Marx should represent us as the candidate for National Treasurer. It was truly an exciting conference, and I hope everyone gained from it.



## Wisconsin FBLA: It's Time to Break Barriers in Orlando

Article by Becca Bagniewski, State Vice President

Three hundred sixty five days a year, Orlando, Florida, is a location full of attractions, destinations, and imagination. This June, Orlando will also be a place of achievement, opportunity, and recognition during the 2011 FBLA National Leadership Conference.

The FBLA National Leadership Conference activities will be kicked off on June 27 with the Institute For Leaders, or IFL. Day one of IFL will be held from 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM, followed by day two on June 28 from 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM. IFL gives members a chance to expand their leadership skills during interactive workshops presented by leadership and motivational speakers. If you are interested in attending IFL, it's not too late to make the early registration deadline for a discounted fee, which ends on May 20.

June 28 is also the first official day of the FBLA National Leadership Conference. Competitive events will take place throughout the afternoon prior to the Opening General Session, which will be held from 7:00-9:00 PM. Throughout the following two days, those who advanced from our State Leadership Conference will Break Barriers during their competitive event performances and tests, spreading the Wisconsin FBLA name throughout Orlando. The Awards of Excellence Program will be held at 6:00 PM on July 1, where we will cheer on those who proved to be the best of the best in their events during their time spent in Orlando.

Wisconsin is assigned to the Hilton Orlando Hotel, which is within walking distance of the Orange County Convention Center. Registration for the National Leadership Conference is now open, so please hurry to get the members of your chapter advancing to NLC registered before May 20 - to receive early registration rates.

There are also many wonderful ways to spend your free time in Orlando. Some of these exciting attractions include: Disney World, Universal Studios, SeaWorld, Busch Gardens, Harry Potter Theme Park, and Discovery Cove. With all of this in mind, study hard, pack your bags, and get ready for an unforgettable experience at this year's FBLA 2011 National Leadership Conference. I hope to see you Orlando, Florida, this Summer!



## Finish the FBLA Year Strong...With Community Service!

Article by Laura Schoenike, State President



As the 2010-2011 FBLA year comes to a close, there is still time for a final round of community service. Being one of the three integral ideas of FBLA, service truly does define our organization, and should therefore be apart of every chapter's agenda. In fact, Spring is the perfect time to work closely with your chapter and community for events like Relay for Life, roadside pick-ups, Salvation Army Spring Cleaning, community rummage sales, and various others. To help get you started, the following idea is from Oconomowoc High School in FBLA Region VI.

Each year, at Oconomowoc High School, our FBLA chapter hosts an event called, "Wax it Off!" for the March of Dimes. Naturally, the goal of this project is raise funds for our partner organization, but in reality, the money raised could benefit any charity. The idea for this project came from viewing the final round of 'Community Service Project' presentations at SLC a few years ago, and we adapted one of the projects to fit our chapter.

For Wax it Off!, our chapter recruits two males from each grade level, as well as two male staff members. Each pair then becomes a 'team' for a total of five teams. During the week of Prom, FBLA members rally the school to make donations to one of the various teams during lunch as well as before and after school. There is also a set of collection jars in our school's main office and in the library. Each night, members help to count the money and fill in a 'thermometer' style chart to show who is currently in the lead. The members of whichever team that has the most donations in their jar by the end of the week must each have one leg waxed at the Prom Assembly. Naturally, this is a quite humorous event that has become a greatly anticipated aspect of this assembly.

The reason this community service project is so successful is due largely to the great connection of people it requires. All of our chapter members must work together throughout the school and community to help raise awareness and collect donations. It also assists us in making crucial connections with local businesses because we contact local spas for the donation of their waxing services and supplies. Overall, all participating members enjoy helping out and learned that a crucial part of being a "future business leader" is knowing when to lend a hand to people in need!

## Saving for College

Article by Jenny Stingle, State Treasurer



Thinking about going to college? Then you need to start saving money because college is costly. A great way to start saving for college is through a 529 Investment Plan also known as EdVest which is Wisconsin's official 529 Investment Plan. Wells Fargo Funds Management, LLC is the bank which supports the EdVest program. The money that you invest in EdVest is nontaxable. EdVest can only be used for college expenses such as: tuition, fees, supplies, books, and required equipment (e.g., computer).

To open an EdVest account you must be 18 years old. Usually, a parent opens an account for their child. The minimum amount needed to open the account is \$250.00 unless you sign up for Automatic Investment Plan (AIP) for as little as \$15.00 per month deducted from your bank account or payroll check. Anyone can put money into the account. If you remove your money and do not use it for college then money you use is taxable.

There are a few ways to start your 529 Investment account, one way is to visit your bank or credit union and another way is to visit this website:

[http://www.wellsfargoadvantagefunds.com/wfweb/wf/ev/index.jsp?BV\\_UseBVCookie=yes&sel=%2fev%2fev+home](http://www.wellsfargoadvantagefunds.com/wfweb/wf/ev/index.jsp?BV_UseBVCookie=yes&sel=%2fev%2fev+home).

Start your 529 Investment account today to put an investment in your future.

#### Quick Links...

- [State Leadership Team](#)
- [Wisconsin FBLA Website](#)
- [Wisconsin PBL Website](#)
- [North Central FBLA Website](#)
- [Previous eBulletin Issues](#)
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